

**USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

Full Proposal Questions for RCPP Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Funding

GOALS AND OUTCOMES

1. Describe the partnership team. What makes this partnership adept at addressing the resource concern(s) and capable of accomplishing the proposed project? List past successes of lead partner with respect to experience executing projects of similar size, scope, and duration.
2. Describe the natural resource concern(s) that your project proposes to address. (See APF page 10 & 11). Your description should include relevant scientific data such as resource assessments, models, physical data, and trends that support your selection.
3. Describe the planned project area. Provide sufficient background to explain why this area was selected by your partnership team. How will the project target area lead to successful, measurable outcomes in addressing the selected resource concern(s)?
4. Describe your project approach. What NRCS programs and practices will you use to combine with your teams' ongoing efforts? Use relevant scientific data to support your approach, and justify the expected measurable changes in resource concerns.
5. Describe how this project may build on activities that have already taken place. Does your project supplement or complete an existing project, initiative, or local/regional plan? Have there been any previous barriers to success? If so, describe how your project approach will overcome them.
6. Estimate how many eligible producers, in the planned project area, are likely to participate. How was this estimation calculated? (This can include existing application demand, participant surveys, etc). Describe any comprehensive strategies for encouraging participation of historically underserved producers (see definition in APF).
7. Describe the project timeline/plan of work. Specifically describe the roles and responsibilities of each partner, including NRCS. Consider NRCS program policies and timelines and how your project scope will integrate or align. Consider application recruitment, ranking, and practice/program implementation.
8. Is your project approach innovative? Explain how innovation will contribute to solving the targeted resource concern(s).
9. Describe how partner cash and in-kind contributions will integrate with NRCS program funds. Letters of Financial Contribution committing to specific cash or in-kind contributions and associated specific tasks are required in the full proposal submission package. Please upload them to the Data Tool, "Letters" tab.
10. How will you measure and document project success? What measurable natural resource concern changes will occur from this project?

11. Describe the cost effectiveness of the approach. Were other alternatives considered, including a no action alternative? Are project costs in line with current regional averages? When measuring outcomes, is there a reasonable cost per unit of progress?
12. Will this project address any environmental justice or persistent poverty concerns that have long term economic consequences if not addressed?

Additional Questions if Applicable:

13. Indicate how the project will assist “producers in meeting or avoiding the need for natural resource regulatory requirements”. Briefly describe the regulation or potential regulation (e.g., TMDL, Endangered Species Act, etc.); the impact or potential impact of the regulation on producers, including any economic impact or impact on production; what mechanism (e.g., State-level or “safe harbor” agreement or Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances) will allow project activities to be considered under the regulation?
14. Does the proposal include any activities that are not included in an NRCS conservation practice standard or enhancement? If so, briefly identify the beneficial and adverse effects of those activities on affected natural resources (soil, water, air, plants, and animals) and specifically statutorily protected resources (e.g., cultural and historic resources, wetlands, threatened and endangered species, etc.).
15. This question is mandatory for projects requesting PL-566 watershed authority funding (only available in the CCA funding pool)
Explain how the required watershed plan-Environmental Assessment (EA)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be completed for the PL-566 portion of the project. Provide details on who will complete the watershed plan-EA/EIS and funding and time needed to complete the watershed plan-EA/EIS. If your project already has an approved PL-566 watershed plan-EA/EIS, provide the name of the plan and date approved. Previously approved plans over 5 years old may need to be supplemented to update natural resource and economic conditions. If a supplemental plan-EA/EIS is needed, provide details on who will complete the plan, how much funding is needed, and timeline for completing the plan. A current, up to date and approved watershed plan-EA/EIS is required prior to starting PL-566 implementation.
16. Does this project require Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA)? Please describe how it will meet the goals and objectives of RCPP. Refer to Section III, Part C for AFA eligibility and requirements and Appendix A in the APF for Definitions.